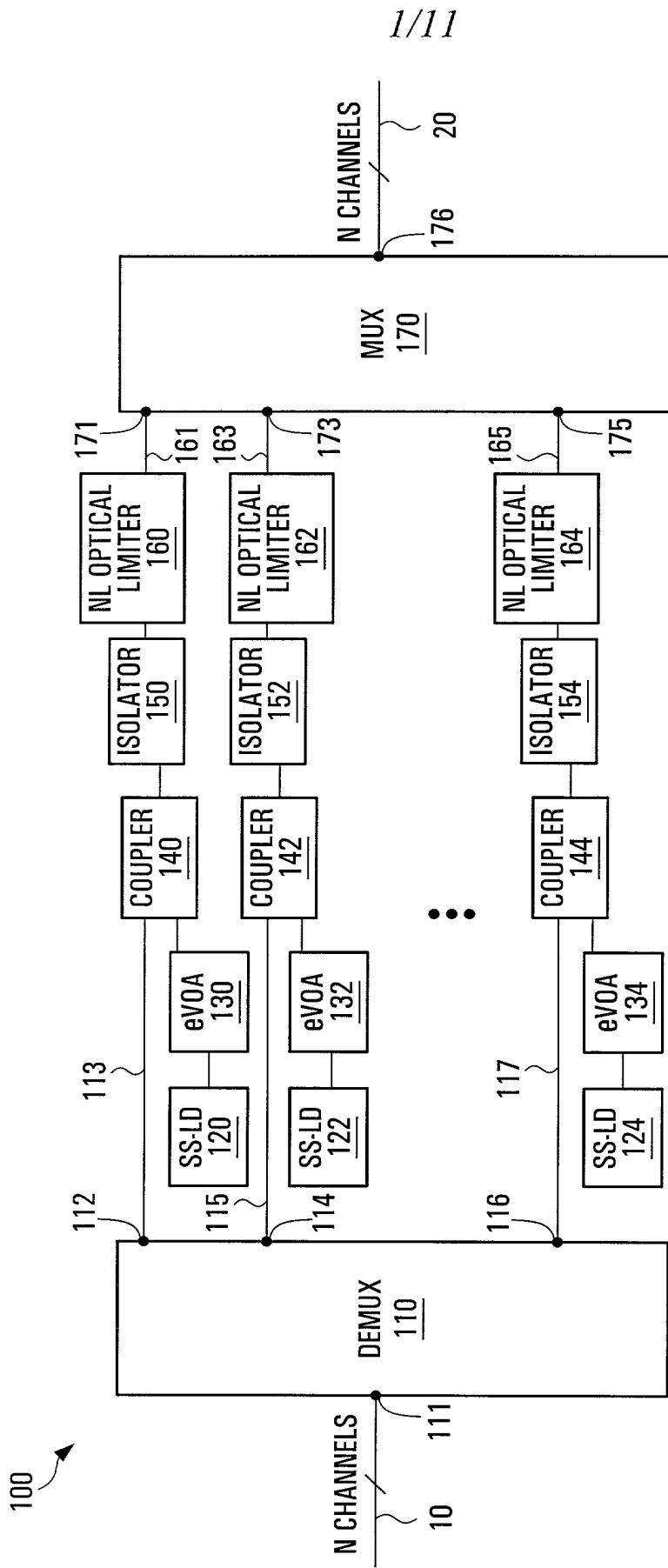


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FIG. 1

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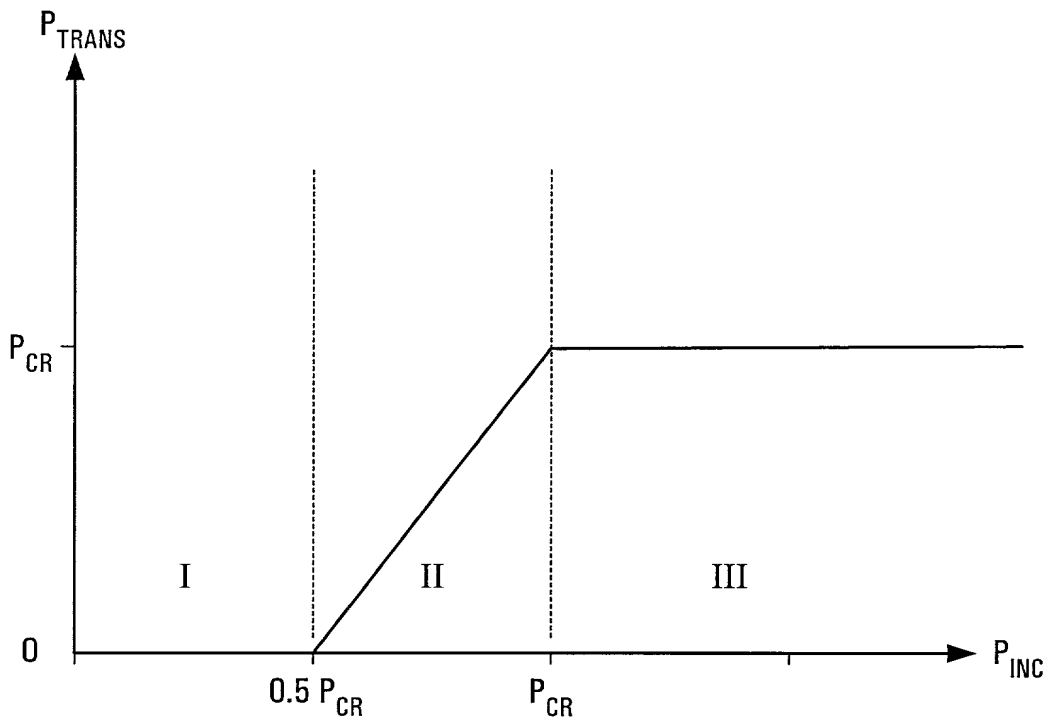


FIG. 2

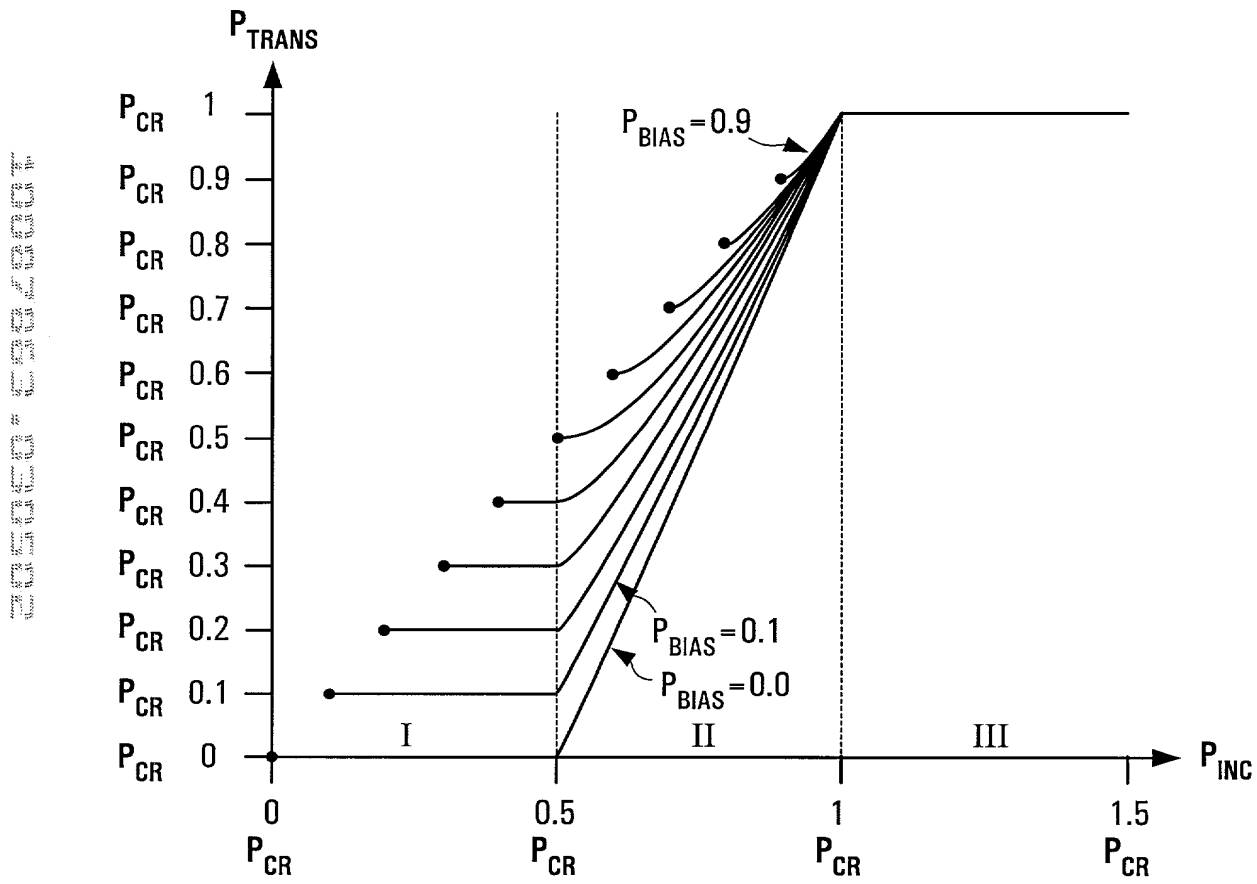


FIG. 3A

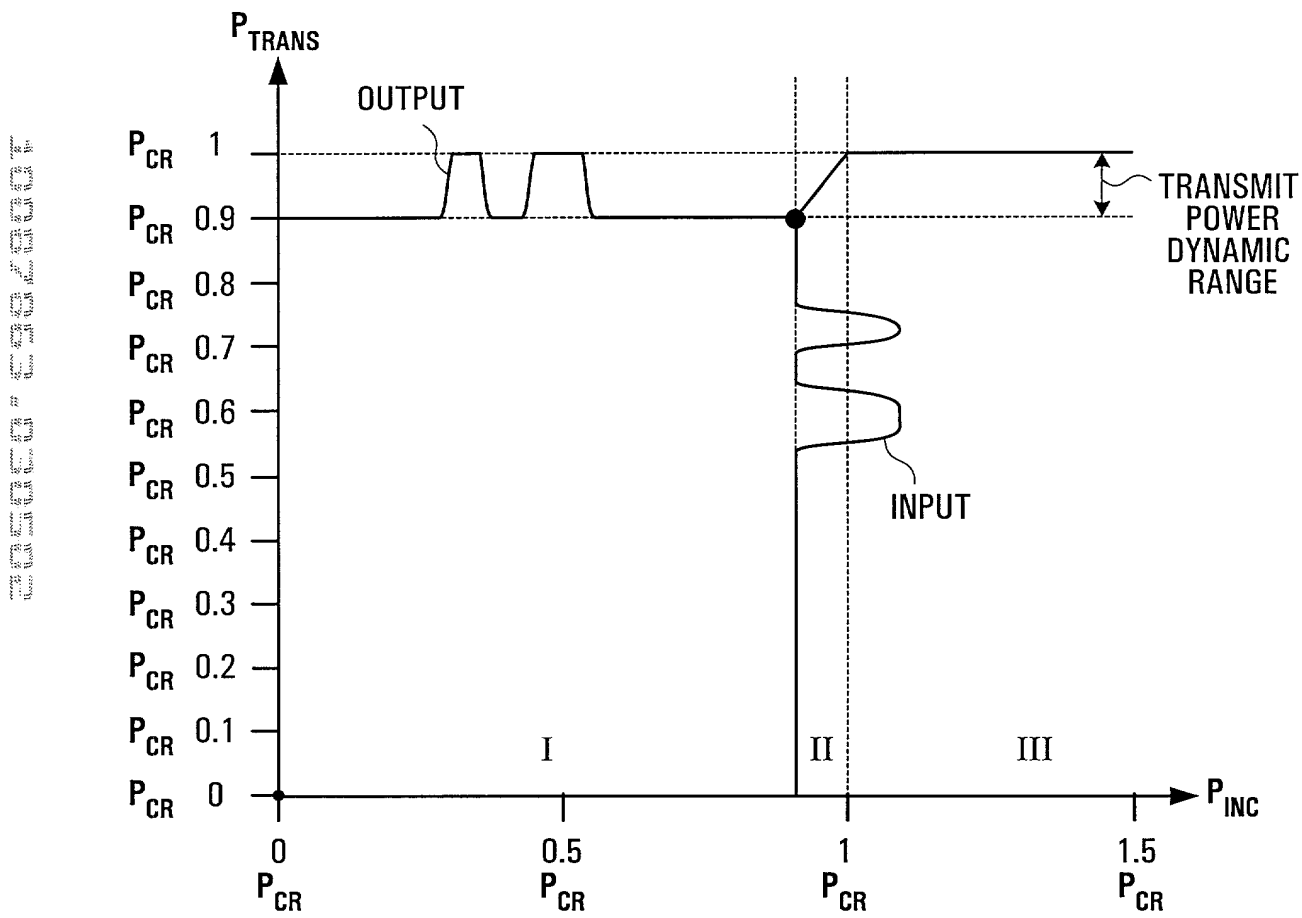


FIG. 3B

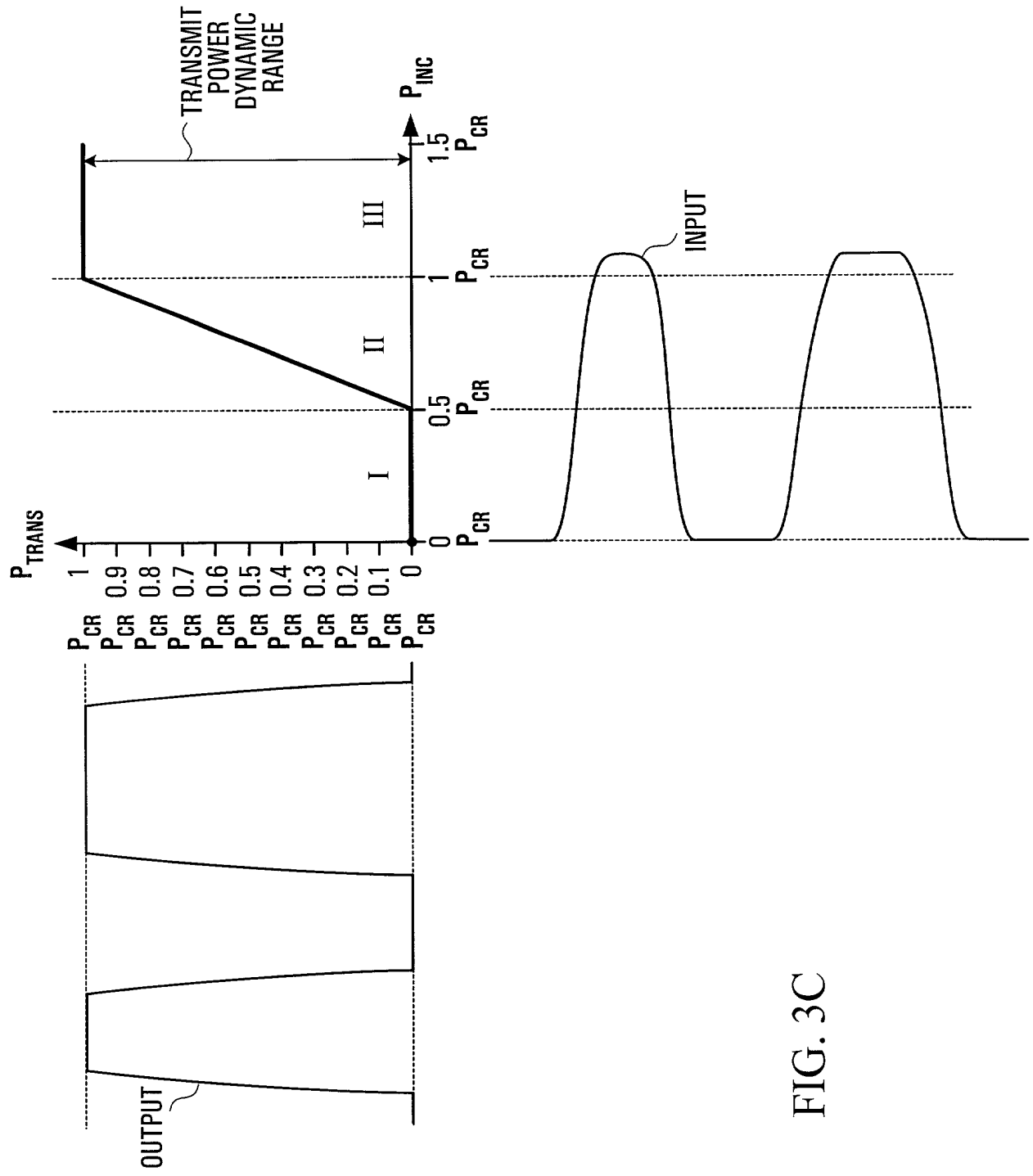


FIG. 3C

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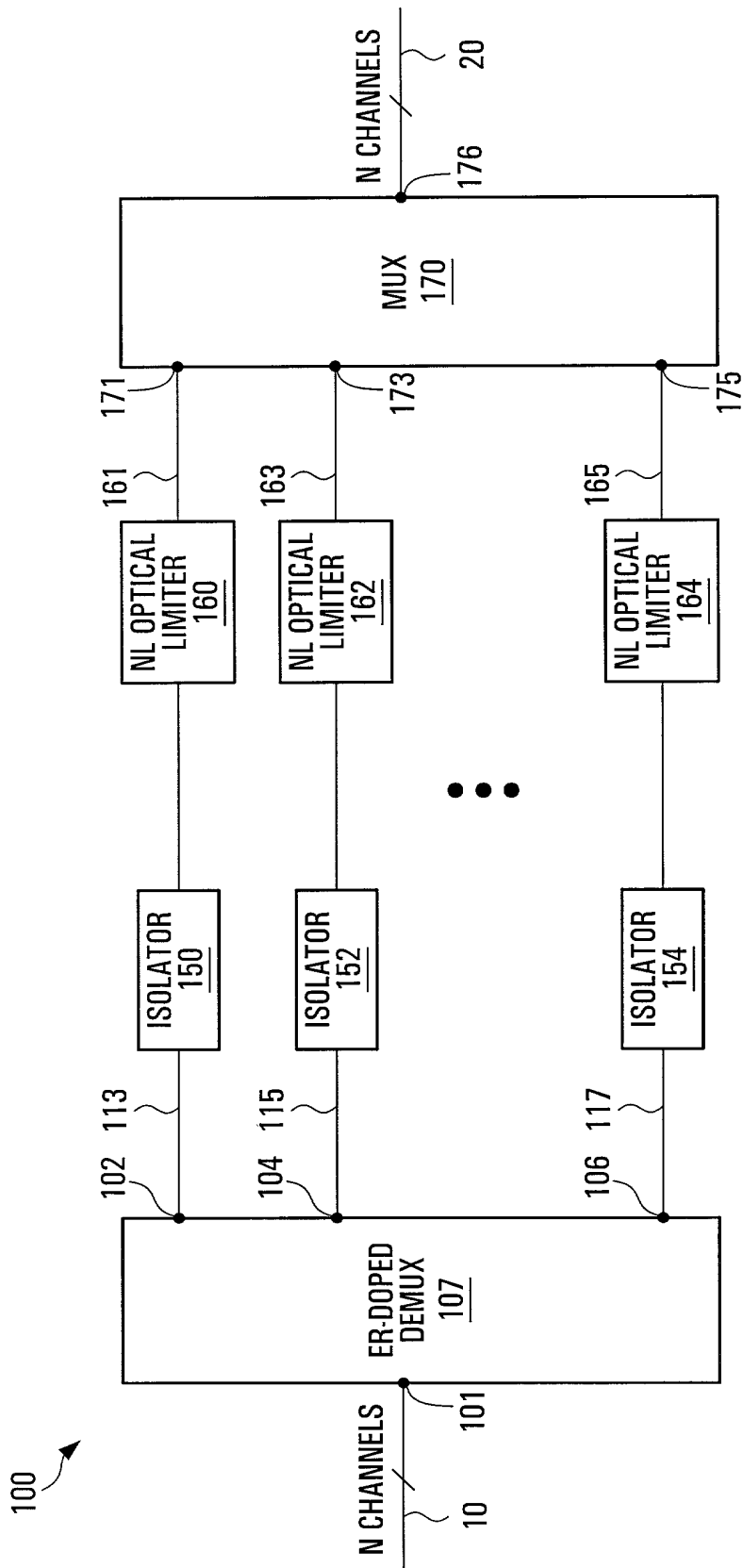


FIG. 4

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FIG. 5 is a block diagram of an optical communication system 100, according to one embodiment of the present invention. The system 100 includes an input section 10, an isolator 20, an EDFA 30, a demultiplexer 110, a series of NL optical limiters 160, 162, ..., 164, a multiplexer 170, and an output section 20. The input section 10 receives N channels of optical signals. These signals pass through the isolator 20 and the EDFA 30, then enter the demultiplexer 110. The demultiplexer 110 splits the N channels into individual paths. Each path passes through an NL optical limiter (160, 162, ..., 164). The outputs of these limiters are then combined by the multiplexer 170, which produces the N channels of the output section 20.

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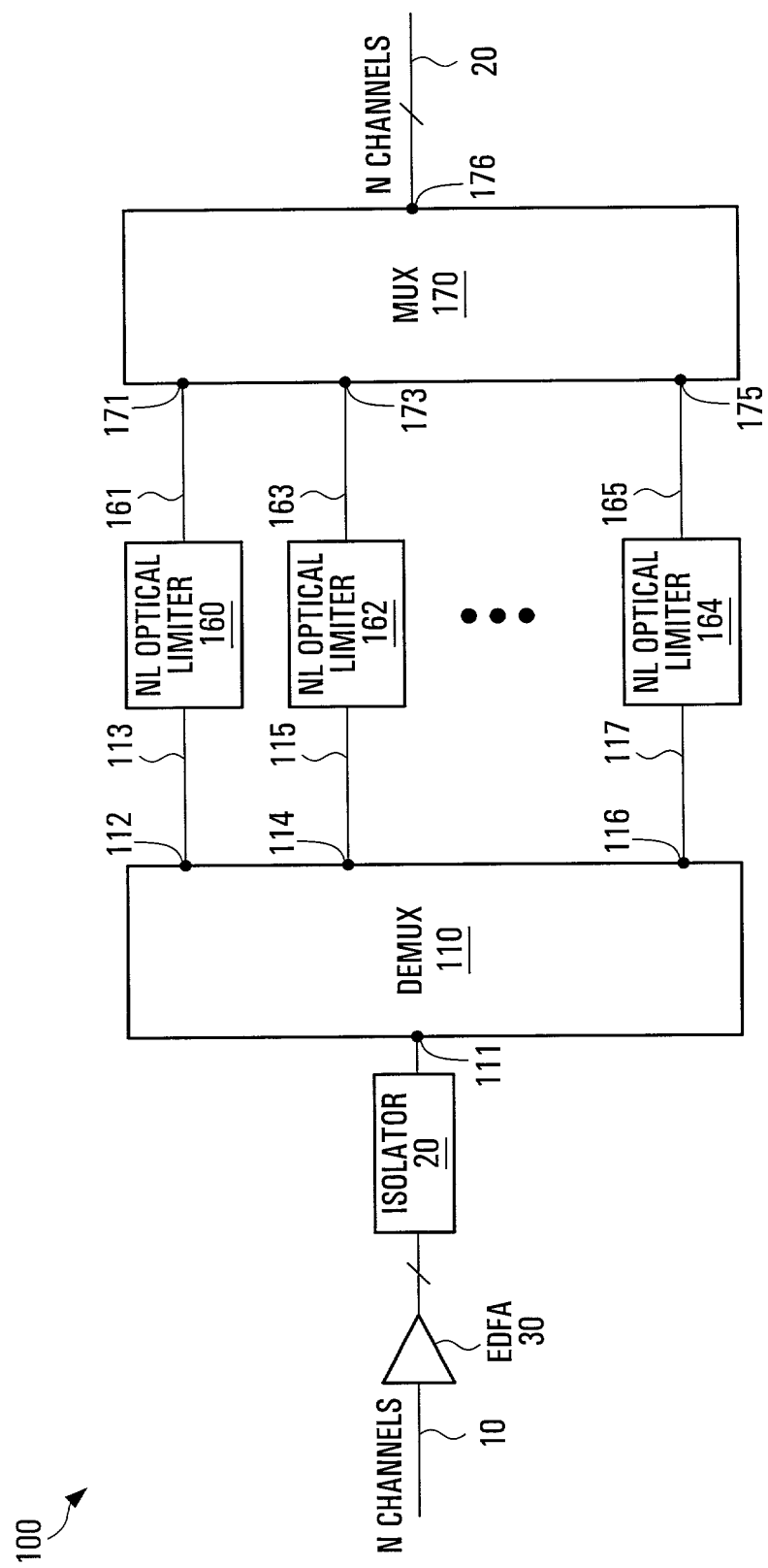


FIG. 5

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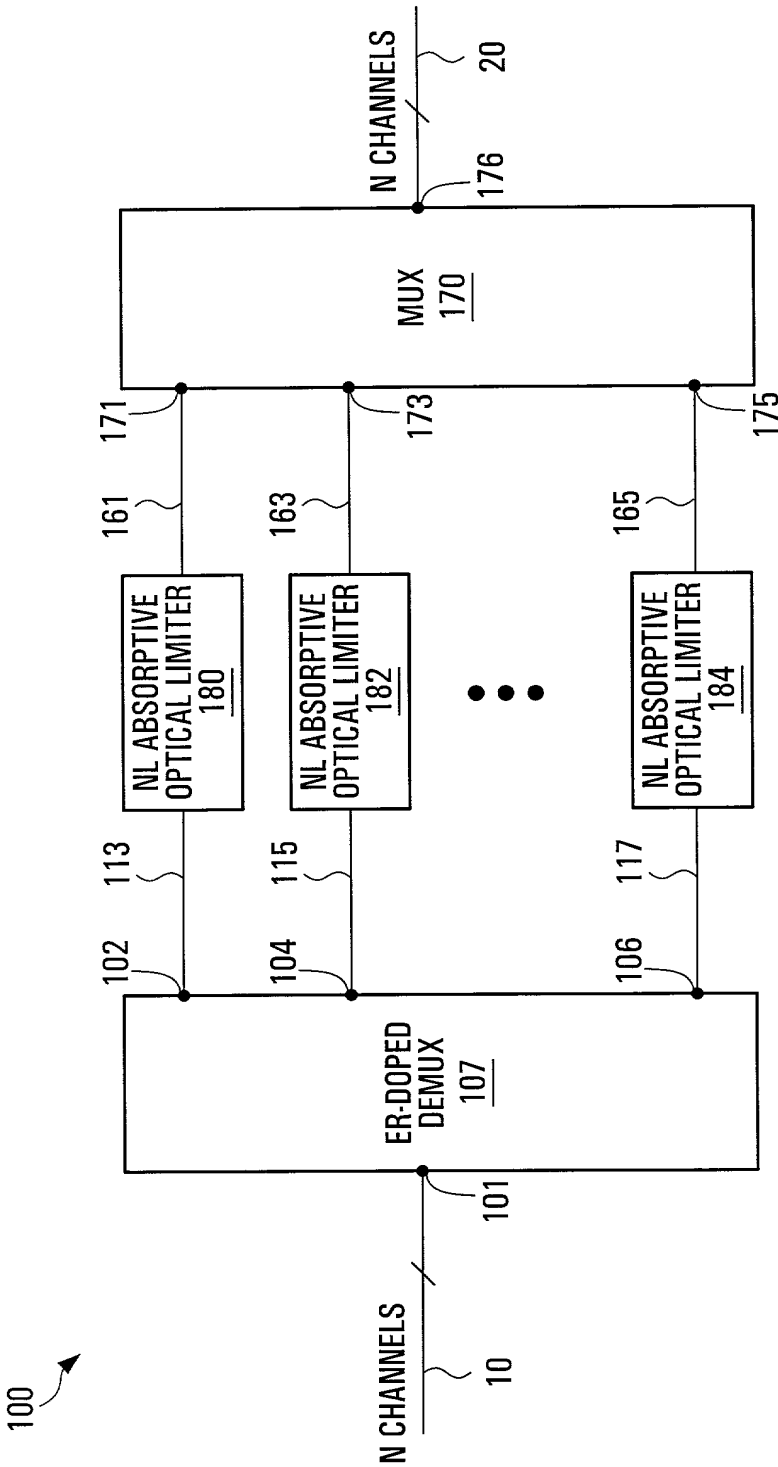


FIG. 6

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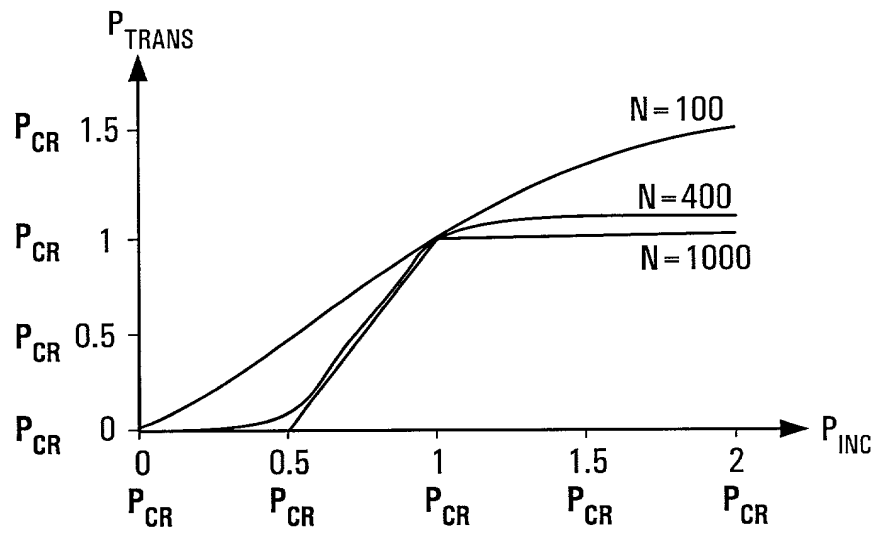


FIG. 7

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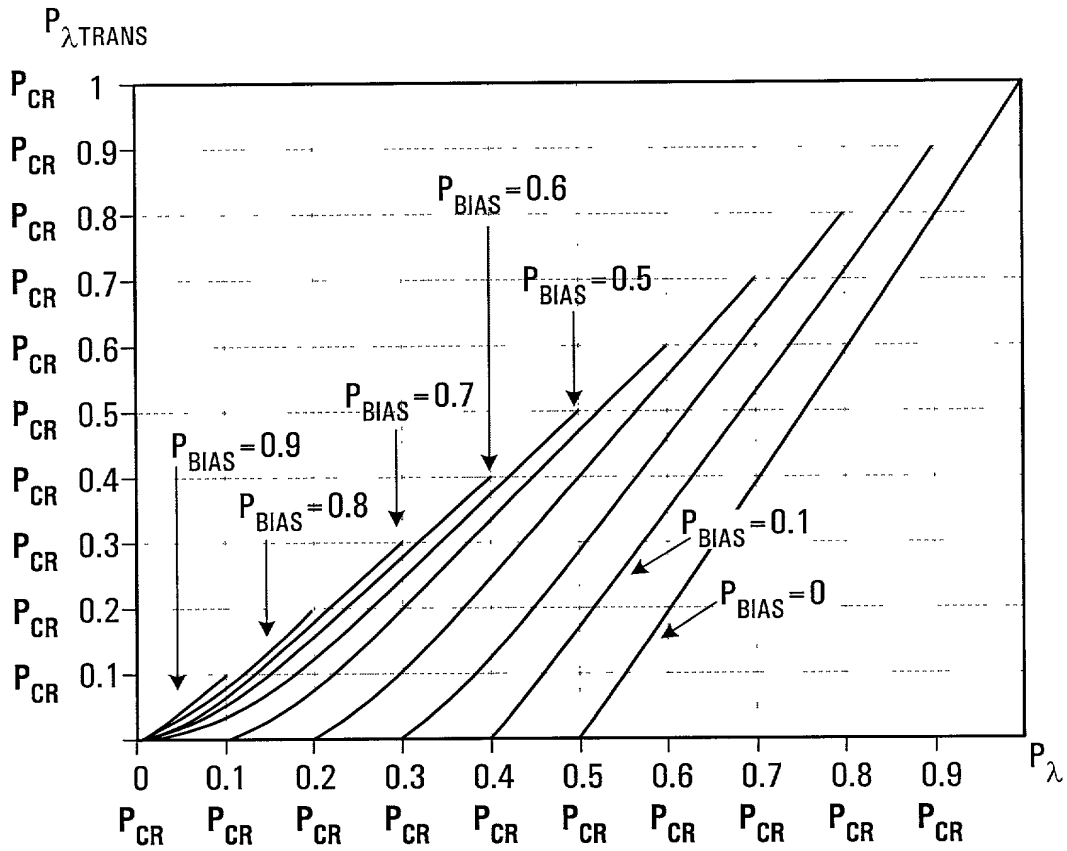


FIG. 8

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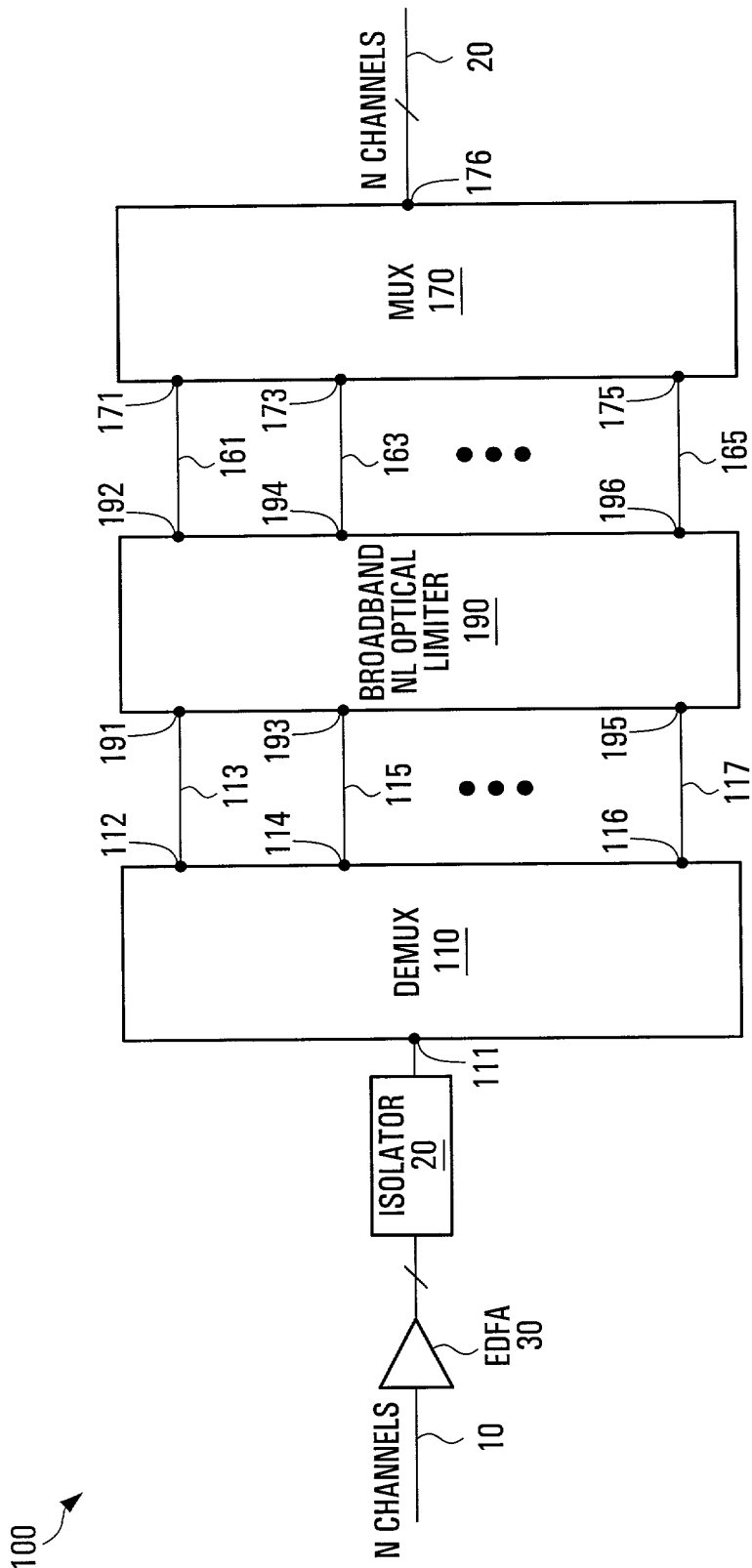


FIG. 9

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